

The Lively Arts: WHOSE DOCTOR WHO?



Patrick Troughton, Jon Pertwee and William Hartnell

Actors, writers, designers, directors and producers have come and gone since *Doctor Who* first appeared in the mid nineteen-sixties. But this science fiction series still remains one of the most popular family shows ever devised for British television; indeed in the past two or three years its audience has expanded considerably.

In spite of all the changes, the programme maintains a consistent core of themes; in the Doctor's philosophy, his relations with his companions (there have been many of them too), his foibles and failings as well as his multifarious talents, and the nature of the evil foes he pits himself against. Although it may seem a strange thing to say about a Time Lord from a planet of almost omnipotent super-beings, there can be no doubt that the Doctor is one of the most "human" of all the heroes now floating round in space.

Using scenes from episodes involving all four Doctors (William Hartnell, Patrick Troughton, Jon Pertwee and Tom Baker) this programme explores the ideas and attitudes which have characterised the series from the beginning. Tom Baker — the latest of the Doctors — who came to the part via Shakespeare and Rasputin in "*Nicholas and Alexander*", appears as himself to talk about the impact of the character on his life and career. Viewers, young and

old, discuss what the series has meant to them, and there is a galaxy of monsters — from Autons to Zarbis, via Cybermen and Daleks.

Introduced by Melvyn Bragg

Executive producer: Bill Morton

Producer: Tony Cash

Colour videotape

Recording No. B15440



Tom Baker